

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1, 1990.

401 Main St., Vancouver, B.C. (604)665-2289



"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it...

Today, therefore, the question...must read: WHY SHOULD THERE BE HUNGER AND PRIVATION IN ANY LAND, IN ANY CITY, AT ANY TABLE, WHEN PEOPLE HAVE THE RESOURCES AND THE SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW TO PROVIDE ALL HUMANITY WITH THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE?...

There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

B.C. POVERTY FACTS

* 215,959 people in B.C. depend on welfare rates that are 40-60 percent of the poverty line (March MSSH statistics);

* Nearly 20% of B.C. citizens live in poverty; (*)

* 143,000 B.C. children are poor;(*)

* The average poor family in B.C. is over \$4000 below the poverty line;(*)

* Between 1979 and 1987, poverty for young families and individuals, children, families of all ages, and female-headed single parent families has increased in B.C.;(**)

FACTS ON POVERTY AND HEALTH

* Poverty is the biggest indicator of poor health;

* Poor babies in Canada have twice the infant mortality rate as other babies;

* Poor children get sick more and die more than other children in Canada.

(*) Canadian Fact Book on Poverty 1989

(**) Overview, Spring, 1990.



On July 19th Les Miserables opened at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. It's a musical about being poor in France two or three hundred years ago.

End Legislated Poverty saw it as a good opportunity to distribute some facts about poverty in good ol' BC in 1990. With 1400 pamphlets, the nine volunteers waited quietly at the entrance and for about an hour gave a shot of reality to the evening.



There was no confrontation, no laying of guilt trips,..just handing out the stuff. About six people refused to take one, while the overwhelming majority said thanks and said they support ELP's work. Above was the text of the handout. At the end were the words "Don't Feel Guilty. Here's what you can do:

1. Write to Bill Vander Zalm, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, V8V 1X4. Tell him to increase welfare rates to the poverty line, raise minimum wages and build housing that low income people can afford. Tell him that you want the government to end poverty in British Columbia.
2. Write to Brian Mulroney, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ont.K1A 0A6. Tell him to stop bringing in budgets and laws that increase poverty. This means stop UI cuts, stop the GST and restore funding to health, education and social programs.
3. Find out what other politicians will do to end poverty in B.C. Be an informed voter.

Send copies of your letters to End Legislated Poverty: #104-2005 E.43rd Vancouver, B.C. V5P 3W8 (321-1202) "

A letter, a hundred letters, a thousand or more...all on one issue can make politicians see that people are not deaf or blind when it comes to their future and their children's. Postage to MPs is free!



Edi
P
ing
whe
the
Ang
Twe
nee
sel
veg
ge
tha
blo
me
ie
ou
se
gr
th
of
cl
of
th
ob
ri
ch
to
l:
ic
co
m
s
e
g
l
p
a
w
t
t
t
:

Editor:

Poverty was no more than a fleeting phenomenon from my past life when I volunteered one morning at the Food Bank located at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 1130 Jervis Street. Twenty volunteers, all of them in need of the brown bag handout themselves, distributed canned goods, vegetables, eggs and frozen hamburger to several hundred recipients that stretched in a line over a block long outside the church.

What was indelibly etched in my memory was the fact that the recipients, many on welfare, representing our youth, our families and our senior citizens, were in reality a group of people who had fallen through the income maintenance cracks of our economy. Most of them were clean and neat in attire with an air of suppressed dignity that belied their beleaguered existence. They obviously regretted this regulated rigamarole in the gymnasium of the church. But there is no other choice to hundreds, yes even thousands, who line up around our City in a procession of poverty every Wednesday, except on "Welfare Wednesday", for a menial handout.

The Food Bank is symptomatic of a system of insensitivity and indifference on the part of the Social Credit government. I agree with End Legislated Poverty's attempts to reduce poverty in British Columbia and bring about a degree of dignity and self-worth to all people. At the same time it is imperative that we rectify the public's general misconception of the poor as being lazabouts and malingerers. The best way to begin to solve the problem is to raise welfare rates and minimum wages above the

poverty level. At the same time stimulating job creation programs must be generated at decent wage levels.

The government should adhere to the recommendations of "Closing the Gap", an annual review of the income assistance rates published by the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. The Council states that the rates are too low to sustain the well-being of men, women and children who are recipients. There is no possible justification for providing less than a subsistence level of income to low income groups.

Who then are these poor people? These people, aside from a few itinerant transients, comprise an integral part of my riding of Vancouver Burrard. They are basically poor through no fault of their own and should not be considered less eligible in our eyes or by government.

Since the Province has supposedly experienced a successful economic growth it is now incumbent on the government to undertake a major restructuring of income assistance immediately. In a Province as affluent as ours, residents should not be subjected to line ups at the Food Bank, nor should any of our children go hungry within the school system. We need a humane political policy for poor people and a restoration of their rights and dignity.

Herman Litsky
Liberal Candidate

UPDATE: on Crab Park

Access to Crab Park has been a frustrating issue for 3 years. At the last meeting of the City Hall committee, the discussion was on Joan Meister's human rights issue. Joan launched a lawsuit, claiming she is being actively discriminated against and her right of access to a public facility being denied. Ms. Meister is in a wheelchair. It's possible that Joan would drop the human rights case if Ports Canada/CPR agree to put in the pedestrian overpass at Columbia and Alexander.

At another meeting an idea was brought up - for a moving walkway at Main Street beside the overpass. I got quite a chuckle from this silly idea. It actually was going to have three stops, I don't know what for. I not only found this silly but unsafe for anyone.

Following is a letter from Alderman Price, dated July 5, 1990:

"Much now hinges on the Port's reaction to the Human Rights Commission case. I hope that I and the Mayor will be able to meet with the Port to come to a resolution on this, that will allow us to proceed with an overpass at Columbia Street as soon as possible.

It is of course not likely that an overpass will be constructed this summer, but if we are able to reach an amiable agreement there is a possibility we might see access by next summer. It is certainly everyone's greatest desire at City Hall that we are able to resolve this problem, but it's clear that the City cannot act without the Port's cooperation."

Submitted by MARGARET PREVOST

Showdown Time

First it was Louis Riel, then Marshall, so who's next - Elijah Harper?

Micmacs, Crees, Haida, Caughnawaga, Oka, Akwasasne, Mohawks, Metis... and the list goes on from coast to coast; designated victims in what can be conceived as the great plot to eliminate our First Nations Aboriginal peoples.

Well, all you millionaire golfers, don't even think for one second that the proud Indian Nations are going to sit by in a pacified manner and allow you to desecrate holy burial grounds or for that matter even trespass on land which is theirs.

Canada is Native Indian land which, by non-natives, was ravaged, pillaged and burned. Was in fact out and out stolen by force of arms

Wilfrid



MANY DOMESTICATED MEN:

Many domesticated men
Made their way to polling booths
To vote for domestication.

Many wild men voted for nothing
Wandered in deserts
Explored new oceans
Discovered new places
in their own backyards

Many domesticated men
Enjoyed well stocked refrigerators
Watched T.V. drank beer
Played board games
Were bald & impotent

Many wild men grew long hair
Ate what they could
Chased women

Many domesticated men
Were bank managers, lawyers,
Accountants, gas station attendants

Many wild men were unemployed bums
Artists, musicians, drug addicts & alcoholics
Some disappeared suddenly
Made it to another world
Where many domesticated men
were almost dead.

TORA

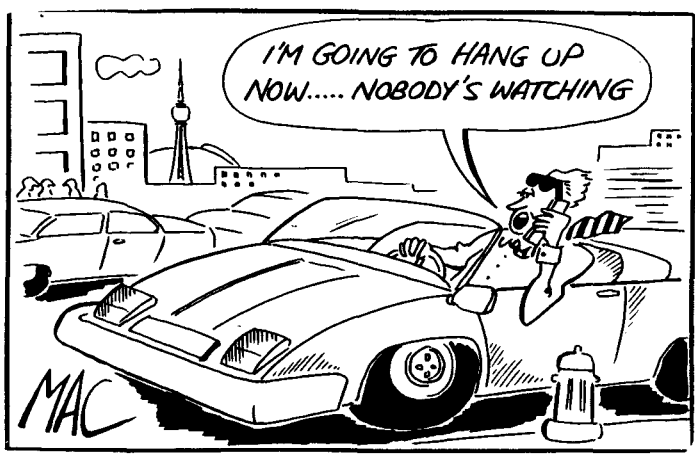
Tom Siddon,
Minister of Indian Affairs
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Siddon:

On behalf of the Carnegie Centre Association, the Board of Directors unanimously support the Mohawks in their demand for settlement of their land claim. We condemn the use of the police force by the government. We wish to see immediate action to resolve the Mohawk land claims.

Sincerely,
Margaret Prevost, Chair,
Community Relations, CCCA

cc: Robert Bourassa
United Native Nations
Mohawk Support Group



No-Fault Assurance

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S Meet the People luncheon guests range from jockeys to journalists, actresses to artists, and disc-jockeys to managing directors of huge corporations. They are asked to arrive at Buckingham Palace at 12.30 p.m. and a footman takes them to the Bow Room for pre-lunch drinks. About 12.50 p.m. a page opens the door and suddenly the guests find the Queen and Prince Philip, and the Queen's corgi dogs among them. The corgis have an important function; they give people something safe and innocuous to talk about, while creating a diversion.

On one occasion a favourite old corgi, Heather, was misbehaving, and the Queen snapped sharply: "Heather!" Opera singer Heather Harper, a guest that day, was quickly reassured by Prince Philip that the Queen was not cross with *her!*

— Unity Hall and Ingrid Seward in *Daily Express*, London

Another renovations saga!

So there they sat, the stalwarts of the Renovations Committee, in great expectation. This was the moment they'd waited for. After two years of planning they would finally open the bids and know who their contractor was.

The envelopes please....

But wait, there are no envelopes. What does this mean?

Dear Carnegie folks, it means **THERE WERE NO BIDS!**

It seems there's still lots of work for contractors out there in the marketplace. Nice clean jobs in new buildings. And renos where a facility is closed down for six months and the contractors have total control of the site. This time around no one was interested in a funky old building (with who knows what behind the walls) and a committee that says parts of the building must always be open to patrons.

So relax and enjoy the summer, folks. There'll be no disruptions at Carnegie for awhile. There's another tendering process to go through and work won't start before October.

Someday, when their job is over, the Renos Committee may be able to laugh at all this!

CERTIFICATE TICKETS

Such idle eyes
the music in their hair
silver turning gold
pineal gland in retreat

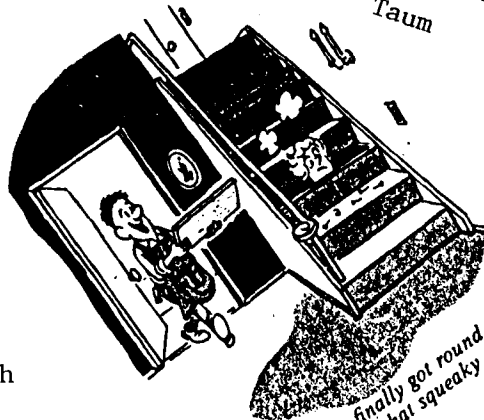
Exillion mega--retreat
regroup, recalculate
so don't be surprised you guys
when you find it's gone

tickets are nothing
despite the deficit
idle lies certificates
patrons, volunteers, security
Share the ticket feed the children
tax the relief from the bottom
of the heap

bottoms
O U T

the taps on my head
keep spoutin' out (all of this)
flower hour for the nobleman
decorated for a King
Why you're me, of course!
There is a candle burning
on the table.

Fresca - No Deposit, No Return!
Tuum



"I've finally got round
to mending that squeaky step."

Na
ho
ar
th
ha
ar
ha
fa
hi
bo

At the DERA membership meeting on Friday, 27 July, a Native representative named Rosalie gave a brief but clear history of Indian land claims.

North America, the "Great Island" in native terms, is the land given to the Natives by the Creator to protect and live in harmony with. When the English and French first arrived, the agreement reached with the English (after the French settlers were defeated) was known as the "two-row wampum". The Natives were simply formalizing, for the sake of the English, what to them was natural: equal rights to live in peace.

In 1867, the four colonies of non-natives got together and formed the nation of Canada..without the knowledge or consent of the First Nations and began signing treaties in the name of the British crown. In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation without the knowledge or consent of the First Nations. No treaties have ever been signed by Natives in this province, yet the governments of both BC and Canada have dealt away lands without no recognition - legal or otherwise - of the Natives' claims.

Natives have been consistently lied to for over 100 years; encroachment has been the result of every promise with "this land only for...; a road is needed for...; and underlying all "It's in your best interest..for your own good..that this last bit goes for

.....
Rosalie talked then about the Oka issue. The lands claimed by the Mohawks is their burial grounds. The expansion of a public golf course is the reason this time for the unapproved (by the Natives) "expropriation". The Mohawks took Quebec to court when the Federal Government denied the existence of their claim. The Court also denied this claim as having any legal bearing on the mat-



Under the cloud of misunderstanding Native Peoples across Canada keep a hold on why blockades and other acts are necessary. What's reported in the media seems to focus on "What has happened today." The Native Nations are basing their actions on what has happened since the 1700s, and the factual history since the 1800s (the history that usually is not in the books).

lys
en

ter. The Mayor of the town went to court to get an injunction to stop the Mohawks six months ago from blockading the road. When the blockade went up in July, he called in the police. The Natives asked that the Warriors Society, part of their tribal system, come in and help. A policeman was killed.

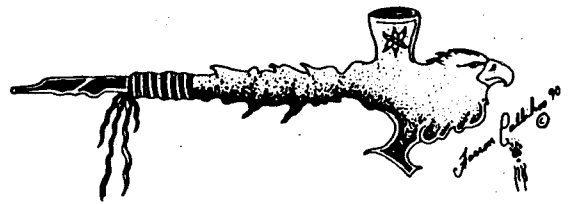
Here in B.C., the so-called have consistently denied the existence of any land claims - EXCEPT WHEN FORCED TO NEGOTIATE. Native Peoples have lobbied the government for years to sit with them and settle this issue, but representatives of the government do not show up.

The Supreme Court of Canada has recently ruled that no law can extinguish any land claims; that both Federal and Provincial governments have a legal obligation to the Native Nations to resolve all land claim issues.

Rosalie asked for support for the Native claims. She left to go to Mt. Currie, then to another province then on to Oka, Quebec. Before she left, a motion was carried unanimously reaffirming the support of all present for Native land claims.

In 1911, the Indian Act was amended to allow the expropriation of Indian lands for "public works". At that time the policy came down in favour of a provincially chartered railway for development of a certain part of the country.

The situation now in Quebec has the Mohawks in Oka defending their land: rights against an (at present) municipally owned golf course. The Mohawks have, along with every other Native People in North America, decided not to accept the idea that the proposed development will be "for your (their) own good!". The land, in case after case, starts out being taken out of Native hands for some use, and 10 years later, 5 years la-



ter, even next week, the government body accepts an 'unexpected offer' from a non-public source and lets the land change hands for private developers to work their schemes.

Technically, legally, if the land was expropriated by a government for public works it can't be challenged except on the issue of compensation for the previous owners. When the people behind the expropriation then shake on the deal to sell it to the picked buyer, that's legal also. When the private owner changes the land use to, say, housing or a shopping mall, millions are made. The Native claim and its violation are, by this time, ancient history.

The Mohawks will not allow this preordained chain of events to get started. Once it begins, any claim they have..... Both sides know the rules of the game, or at least can predict what happens next. The land can legally be grabbed, the Natives get a chunk of money if they spend years and millions in court, the public ownership is lost when the work to develop the land is finished and paid for by tax dollars and sold to private hands.

What's scary & sickening is that someone called in the Provincial Police to make sure their scam was going ahead. One of them was killed. Now we have two opposed camps with the media showing racist activities as normal, everyday events. The ass-covering schedule that makes this whole scam legal is giving the Mohawks widespread support. Blind eyes are becoming as scarce as dodos.

By PAULR TAYLOR

I lend myself to the purest reason
 I hold my head high for lack of shame
 I grace my life with the wildest beauty
 Abuse myself with the memory of pain.

And on the way
 towards the day
 When I will shine
 I learn that time
 Will change me
 in small ways
 for always
 forever

For now I only look where it is empty
 I only search for what cannot be seen
 I only know what someone sometime told me
 And all I know for sure I disbelieve

But while I wait
 for time to make
 A king of me
 I patiently
 reassure myself
 in small ways
 for always
 forever

I doubt if I am sure
 because there's always
 more than meets my mind

I cry if I am pleased at life
 So if it ends I won't seem to change
 Ever always re-arranging changes
 Everyone & everything forever
 And all I know is all I'm told to know.

Author unknown
 (found written on a dirty napkin,
 blowing past the corner at Alexander
 & Main)



From WAYNE KELLAND on land claims:

The Quebec government, as well as the Federal government (now on holiday) should bear responsibility for the situation at hand (the lack of admission of culpability, for starters). Quebecers are burning effigies in protest of Mohawk actions. How far will things go?

I feel the Federal stance in this state of affairs is only being taken to justify their own position. People have been calling for the army to step in. The federal caucus must be glad. The armed forces (if called in) would be used to defend the federal structure as it is (as well as break militant obstructions if they persist). This would prove to the Quebec government in power and the Indian nations of the country that a buffer is needed to keep the peace; i.e. Department of Indian Affairs, Dept. of the Interior, Dept. of Justice. I feel that it is these very departments that need to be restructured if peace is to be kept in this country. They are equally to blame from the start.



**TIRED
 OF
 BEING
 TIRED?**

Dear Mayor Campbell:

Our Association, which represents 2,000 residents in the Downtown Eastside and Strathcona, is deeply concerned about the ever-increasing drug and drug-related activities in the community. As more and more people with severe problems - such as drug and alcohol dependencies, histories of violence, and homelessness - continue to be pushed into our neighbourhood, our quality of life continues to deteriorate. Our local agencies, which are overworked and underfunded, are also trying to cope with the situation.

To alleviate the problems created by the drug trade in our area, we suggest the following solutions:

1. More Hispanic and Native police officers and street workers;
2. Enhanced cultural, social and recreational centres, plus improvements in services and activities for young people;



"Jonathan wanted a real library,
but this is cheaper."

3. Greater opportunity for low-cost housing (e.g. co-ops) for low income earners, families, HIV-positive persons, and Natives;
4. Continued and stepped-up patrol of the areas frequented by the drug dealers and pimps;
5. Fewer liquor licenses and outlets.

We are willing to discuss and be a part of any feasible solution and would welcome the involvement of different municipal and neighbourhood groups in the ongoing creation of a better home for eastside residents. Providing appropriate services to people in their own community may be initially expensive, but this will save money in law enforcement, penal and medical costs over time. More importantly, many lives will be saved.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,
Barbara Morrison, Secretary,
Carnegie Community Centre Association.

request for a warm recycled good feeling hug
it could be either an ounce or
a gazillion kilotons
a wrap of warmth can bring the world to tears
mail it c.o.d. I'll pay on-delivery
an ounce of earth shared through our bones
passed on
put your arms where they belong
for a moment I made it there
to a lover, a slight crescendo
because there is your touch
thank you
not my lover, my spartan tides to compare;
sleep, walking love
because there is your touch

Vishva Hartt

THE
CANN
RAIS
WITH
TEN

In

are

-

pe

wo

AN

Ac

ri

te

EV

--

ge

ou

gi

ti

or

al

fc

of

l.

of

ti

Th

no

yo

ap

at

w:

Ye

no

2

g:

a

l

d

d

i

T

t

THE SHELTER PORTION INCREASE (AUGUST) CANNOT BE SNATCHED BY AN IMMEDIATE RAISE IN RENT. LANDLORDS MUST COMPLY WITH THE RULES OF THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT. (Read on...)

In August 1989, the law changed. You are considered a "hotel tenant" IF - you pay less than \$15 a day rent, per person, to a hotel. (In other words, if you pay less than \$450/mo) AND you have no other address.

Under the new Residential Tenancy Act you now have most of the same rights and obligations as any other tenant renting in BC.

EVICCTIONS

Evictions must be legal. The manager or landlord cannot say: "You're outta here tomorrow." You must be given proper notice. A legal eviction must be served to you in person or posted clearly on your door. It's almost always on a legal government form. There are basically four types of evictions:

1. A Ten Day Notice for non-payment of rent. You have five days, from the time you receive your notice, to pay. This cancels the eviction and should not result in any penalty, unless your cheque bounced. If you want to appeal the eviction, you must appeal at the Residential Tenancy Branch with five days of receiving notice. You have ten days to move if you do not appeal or pay.

2. A One Month Notice for cause. This generally concerns a tenant's conduct and is usually given when the landlord believes you have unreasonably disturbed the other tenants, caused damage that you haven't repaired, or impaired the safety of other tenants. These are the most commonly used sections but there are others. The one

month notice must be properly served to you no later than the day before you pay your rent. You have ten days to appeal from the time you receive this notice.

3. A Two Month Notice because the building is being torn down, converted or substantially renovated, or because the landlord intends to move his immediate family (spouses, parents or children) into your suite. If the building is slated for demolition you can get the city to withhold the demolition permit for six months. As with the one-month notice, the two-month one must be properly served to you no later than the day before you pay your rent. You then have 15 days to appeal.

4. The Early Termination. This's used by the landlord in cases where the tenant is believed to be an extreme danger to other tenants or to the safety of the building. A landlord can get a hearing very quickly at the Residential Tenancy Branch. You are supposed to receive notice of this hearing and may attend to present your side.

* THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN LEGALLY REMOVE YOU OR YOUR THINGS FROM YOUR ROOM IS A SHERIFF.
RENT INCREASES

Your rent can only be raised once a year if you stay in your place. You must receive three months written notice before the day you pay your ~~rent~~. For example, if you moved into a place on December 1, 1988, your rent cannot be raised until December 1, '89 and then only if you received written notice before September 1, 1989.

GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE WHEN YOU MOVE

Just as a landlord must give a hotel tenant written notice of evictions and rent increases, a hotel tenant should also give one full month's written notice before moving out. This means your landlord or manager must receive written notice the day before you pay

your rent. Your letter must have your name and address, the date you are giving notice and the date you are moving out. If you don't give proper notice and the landlord cannot rent your place, you may lose your security deposit or the landlord may try to make you pay the month's rent. Always keep a copy of any letter you write to your landlord or manager.

SECURITY DEPOSITS

Hotels may now charge up to half a month's rent for security deposit (or damage deposit). This must be asked for when you first rent your place and it must include everything (like key deposits). If you are on welfare, your worker can give you the security deposit. If you have already been renting a place, the landlord cannot suddenly demand a damage deposit. When you move out, your damage deposit must be returned to you, with any interest owed, within thirty days. If you get back less than you deposited, all deduction must be detailed in writing.

WELFARE & SHELTER PORTION INCREASES

Starting with August's cheque, the shelter portions have been increased. Everyone is entitled to this, but a landlord cannot just hike your rent without giving the three months notice or less than a year since the last rent hike. There is a matter of inside information here, in Vancouver anyway, with a number of hotels giving written notice a few months saying that rents were going up August 1st, the same day as the shelter increases come into effect. The majority of the rents are still at least \$10 over the maximum shelter portions, with a number \$20-\$30 higher. As usual, welfare recipients have to spend food money for the extra rent, a telephone, ...some people got ELEVEN DOLLARS MORE on their support portion to cover all the little extras..the luxury items.

RELOCATOR

We are facing a housing crisis, many people are finding themselves without a home due to evictions caused by demolitions and various land pimp tricks.

DERA for many years has assisted the people of the Downtown Eastside when they are in a housing crisis situation and need to find a place to live.

Recently, DERA relocated residents of the Cordova Lodge and Veille Hotel when they were shut down by the City, and the Ohio Rooms when it burned down.

Now it's official. The city and the province are going 50/50 on a grant to DERA to fund a relocator for the Downtown Eastside. DERA will maintain a registry of accomodations in the neighbourhood and have a full-time relocator to help people find the few affordable places there are.



*Do Something
Meaningful...*



"
th

wl
Co
st
an
2
w
th
s
c

e
l
w
a
o
t
b

LOOKING AHEAD



Strathcona Community Gardens Association

"The highest function of ecology is the understanding of consequences."

Words strung together to express what gardeners at the Strathcona Community Gardens seem to know instinctively. The Gardens had the annual Open House on Sunday, July 29th, so interested people could walk about, look at the incredible things happening, ask questions and sip lemonade or sample some of Bob's chili.

The photograph above is the latest example of a solution to keep the land and it's myriad uses in harmony with both nature and people. There's a natural marshy area that kids get off splashing through. This upsets the lives of the fauna. Solution: build a water trough for kids to

play in, make a canal beside it, use earth and stuff to build a small hill and hey! Presto!! balance is restored





and life goes on.

It'd been about two years since this writer had been to the Gardens on Prior Street; the changes and work reflect the creative minds at play. The Sterling Group came last summer and, with much local help, did in 1 day the work that otherwise would have taken years..literally! Before all paths were beaten earth, with plots sometimes ill-defined and accessed with difficulty. Now there are straight gravel paths with irrigation pipes under them; there is a growing orchard, there is a hothouse for seedlings, an herb garden, dozens of cedar and spruce trees and a burgeoning compost operation. There is even a brick "tea-heater".

Plans for the future include increasing the compost part about tenfold, an earth berm around the natural marsh, hordes of berry bushes and, as always, more gardens and gardeners!

A L I C E

DERA SHIP SHAPE is beginning it's newest venture, ALICE, which stands for A Low Income Co-operative Endeavor. It will be the first food store of its kind in the Downtown Eastside. As of August 1, 1990, we will have our location at 33 West Cordova and start renovations.

We hope that by September 1, 1990, we will be in full operation. Stocked will be dry goods and a variety of canned food, as well as cleaning supplies and personal health products.

ALICE will be staffed by the seniors and administered by DERA. By using volunteer workers we will be able to keep the overhead down to a minimum, thereby lowering the cost of the food and making it affordable to seniors and those on low or fixed incomes.

(Reprinted from DERA Newsletter)



Thoughts coming to me in rays of
sunlight

Flooding of sun lifting me high
Eternities in a space indescribable
Moments of precious forever.

Elizabeth Thorpe

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE SENIORS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Talk about Grey Power - !!!

This day-long meeting, held on June 22nd at Jenny Pentland Place, was alive with seniors from several organisations in the area: DERA SHIP SHAPE (Seniors Health Independence Program Social Health Action Project Eastside), SUCCESS, 411 Seniors Society, the Neighbourhood Helpers Project of the Downtown Eastside Seniors.

Back in November, '89, seniors and staff in these various groups felt the need for such a workshop - a way to get the seniors involved and active in determining priorities and planning projects. The ideation was to focus on two themes: (1) seniors needs and priorities in the Downtown Eastside; and (2) developing actions/plans to deal with these. To get people's input, the first thing was a survey that went all over the area in May. Responses helped define the scope of the workshop with four main categories of health, safety, housing and recreation/activities.

A. Recreation/Health Group:

- need for education re: racism and stereo-typical thinking
- need seniors input in local area planning and decision making
- need swimming pool and recreation facility/centre
- strengthen and increase physical activities
- urgently need cheap, affordable trips, outings, tours
- need safe facilities at night
- Carnegie Centre too threatening for seniors
- parks don't meet the needs
- need indoor therapeutic pool and indoor swimming pool

- family relations very important
- need more volunteer involvement & leadership training
- lack of "social" in social housing

B. Housing/Safety Group:

- need to clean up parks; too many drunken people
- need to coordinate information about local activities
- improve networks
- reach out to illiterate people
- lack of safety limits mobility
- increase policing
- need regular clean-up at side st.
- need to improve crosswalk signals
- lack of money leads to malnutrition
- need health workshops
(over ½ the points in 'A' as well)

Us kids (under 40), even though we know everything, could learn a thing or two from the old gals & geezers.

Safety: Concerns and Actions:

1. Racism

- use translators wherever possible to ensure all people understand
- reach out (extend ourselves) to people of other races..take a risk
- Theatre - bring in multi-cultural theatre and share feelings

Workshops: use resources of funders

(like U.I. Top-Up)

- to collect resources
- work with volunteers
- develop programs



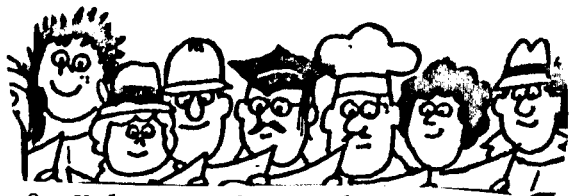
2. Street Safety

- recognition of community resources to solve problems
- Crosswalks: slower lights needed; there are no ramps on some corners

Contact City Hall:

- attend meetings as a group
- show cause, petition
- use community organisations (D.E. Seniors, 1st Church Housing, DERA, Carnegie, etc.)

- Traffic: large volume, speed; need signs to alert drivers of the nature of the community (seniors & handicap)
- Sidewalks: provide for cyclists (insured & licenced cyclists, trained for traffic); meet with cyclist group to talk about concerns
- Lighting: crowds at Pigeon Park



3. Volunteer Outreach

- incentives payment for volunteers
- volunteers meeting needs of seniors
- registry to match needs with skills
- promotion via information sharing
- Transportation: where to get wheelchairs; inventory; donations from corporations, service clubs, etc.
- volunteer visiting program for companionship, volunteers on call, room checks, daily visits & night security

And, "hammered home", were ways & means to get action.

1. Lobby Provincial & Federal governments for ongoing seniors funding.

Key services cannot be co-ordinated on a volunteer basis; need paid staff.

2. BCHMC/CMHC must recognize that funding for housing needs to include money for on-site management and social support.

3. Seek core funding for a more universal, community-based, personal, "neighbour helping neighbour" model outreach service.

4. Information and Communication:

- make better use of existing community newsletters
- more effective networking
- information in Cantonese, etc.
- information for low-literacy people

5. Lobby for decent incomes for seniors, including 'under 65' seniors



ty

AT THE PARK

As I sit here in the Park
thinking of a million things
I hear those blasted trains
screeching something awful
The propellers turning on a
chopper going off to its
next destination

Listen there's another plane
landing, while another one
takes off to God knows where

The seabus has landed with a
full load, and will soon be off
to North Vancouver

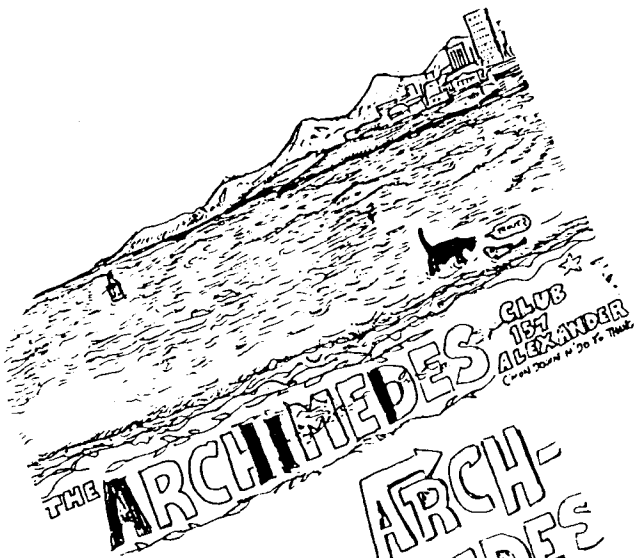
A sister ship has blown its
horn to let everyone know
she will be leaving soon

The gulls are flying overhead,
looking for their next meal

As the wind wisks through the
park, making the trees sing,
the diamonds glitter on the
water and the grass dance to
a beautiful tune. As it smothers
my body with coolness, as the
sun beats down

As the day winds down, the
sound of laughter and peaceful
feelings fade away, to the night
of many different sounds.

Margaret Prevost



ARCH-
IMEDES
ALL THE WORLDS AN
OPEN
STAGE
NOW
EVERY
WEDNESDAY!
AT NINE O'CLOCK P.M. ET



Dancing on the keys of a computer

dancing on the computer keys
my sister plays a game
she'll surely have fun
playing the computer
her fingers dance on the keys
she goes and plays
upstairs
in the computer room at carnegie
she likes to play the computer
all the time
she likes to play oregon
and she doesn't wanna come off it
oregon is a country
and oregon is a computer game

Erica & Francis



FIGHTING BACK

(The letter below was prepared and sent by the Law Students Legal Advice Program. It's a free service and can give much in many areas. Law students come to Carnegie on a weekly basis and times/days can be learned by calling Info: 665-2220. P.S.: Joe got his money!)

To: Flint Residence, 1516 Powell St
Re: Joseph Boucher's Security Dep.

I have been consulted by Mr. Joseph Boucher with respect to difficulties arising out of the security deposit he paid on Room 223 of your Residence. Mr. Boucher advises me as follows:

Mr. Boucher moved into Flint Residence eight years ago. In May of this year, he was asked to move out of his room temporarily while it was renovated. He was also asked at that time to pay a security deposit on the room. Mr. Boucher agreed to change rooms temporarily and, on May 23rd, he paid Art Chamberlain of your employ \$137.50 as a deposit. Mr. Boucher moved out of Flint Residence towards the end of May. Since then he has asked Art Chamberlain on a number of occasions for the return of his deposit. Mr. Chamberlain has refused.

Section 16 of the Residential Tenancy Act requires that a security deposit and the interest on it must be returned to a tenant within 30 days of the termination of the tenancy. As well, any shortcomings must be accounted in writing to the tenant within 30 days of termination.

On the basis of the foregoing facts, Mr. Boucher could apply for arbitration at the Residential Tenancy Branch which could result in an

aware for the above amounts, plus all disbursements, costs & interest.

Mr. Boucher will forego further action upon receipt of \$137.50, in the form of a certified cheque or money order, within ten days of the date of this letter. Failure to do so will result in the commencement of action without further notice.



together

holy roller I
bat a long haired eye
to test my own morality
my life for which I have never compared
upon a sheet of multiple choice exam
poof in a dwelling of smoke
holds the crunch
of your physical communication aloft
as the landscape of a single,
hardheaded face - networking
an exaggerated fingering of roots
breakout & come down
softly to the riverside
forcing a connection, every sight
of you covers you
the existentialist took an hour
to slice a carrot into little cubes
but you accomplish true crudity:
a silver-green beautiful carrot
sliced with your thoughts
before the blink of any
gray haired winking
of a long haired eye

Vishva Hartt

SOCRED POLITICS TAMPER WITH B.C. LAW

In the wake of the Bill Reid-Bud Smith affair, yet another scandal has broken exposing both the Socred cabinet tampering with the law and a minister caught trying to cover up the truth.

The latest situation involves a large forest licence awarded in the Takla-Sustut region of northwestern B.C. Bids for the licence were made by two local firms in Hazelton and Smithers, and two from further away. The forest service official legally mandated to decide who would get the licence did his job and made an independent assessment. Supported by four out of five ministry officials, he chose the Hazelton-Smithers bids.

But the Socred cabinet refused to follow the law and intervened politically where they were legally forbidden. (The current forest minister admitted as much in a July 20 news release, stating: "Under the legislation then in effect, elected members were not able to exercise the decision-making function.") Behind closed doors, the Socreds took the law into their own hands, overruled the independent official, and for their own political purposes gave the contract to the outside bidders. It appears the fix was in from the beginning.

Once again, Socred politicking has hurt B.C. taxpayers and communities. This latest Socred manoeuvring cost Hazelton and Smithers millions of dollars in investments and several hundred jobs, 300 in Hazelton alone. The B.C. treasury lost an estimated \$1 million a year in additional revenue expected from the local bids.

Only weeks after breaching the old law the Socreds wrote a new law to give the forest minister authority over the independent forest service experts. As a Vancouver Sun business columnist wrote: "A straightforward administrative matter that can be handled by bureaucrats has been put in the political arena where favoritism and pork-barrelling are the order of the day."

To their credit, the village of Hazelton refused to quietly accept the Socred



Who Needs Money?

interference. Hazelton complained to B.C.'s Ombudsman, whose recently completed investigation exposed the whole mess and confirmed that the Vander Zalm government interfered in the process.

Prince Rupert MLA Dan Miller, New Democrat forests critic, has revealed that the former minister of forests, Dave Parker, misled the legislature on this matter. In response to direct questioning on the award, Parker claimed the decision was made by the deputy chief forester, and not by the Socred cabinet. The Ombudsman showed that, in fact, the Socred cabinet improperly overturned the original independent decision.

I believe British Columbians have had enough of Socred backroom manoeuvring and tampering with the law. Awarding of competitive licences must be done openly so that B.C. companies can bid in good faith, knowing they'll be treated fairly. Under the Socred government, no one in any forest company in B.C. can have that assurance.

The message this scandal and others send out to all British Columbians is clear: there appears to be no area in which the Socreds won't interfere for their own narrow political purposes. It's time to change the government.

By MIKE HARCOURT

THE UNTOUCHABLES IN OTTAWA

We've got some monu-"mental" giants
 Don't know their fronts from their "behindts"
 Stand up in Ottawa each day
 Bullshit the public for their pay

In Parliament they parleevoov
 Salmon-arm Salute and poopoo
 Oui Oui of course to raise in pay
 Public be damned, let them eat hay

They shout 'n wave 'n yell to hell
 Tighten your belts 'n fare thee well
 Proboscus nostros we now rule
 Poor citizen you're such a fool

The P.M. has a barnyard brain
 He uses to control and reign
 His "cockus" clique of "putty"-cats
 To grovel 'yes' down on their slats

"Conserve-a-Tory" rust or bust
 To such degree of power lust
 M.P.s all lined up at the trough
 A-snortin there's never enough

A pox upon politicrooks
 I mean the quirks who cooked the books
 Then dared us "Catch me if you can"
 With a well hatched cover-up plan

Our system's but a legal play
 Allowing Shilocks to enjoy
 Their raids into the cookie jar
 As 'The Untouchables' they are.

HooHoo



BRIDGE, BRIDGE, BRIDGE

The interest in an organized Bridge Club is growing again in Carnegie. Just recently the Carnegie Seniors had a Bridge Tournament (July 16) to select people to represent us at the Sea Festival's Seniors' Bridge Tournament (Jul.24). The winners of the Carnegie Tournament were: John Cressman & Art Coutts; Lloyd Caton & Bob Kiggins.

At the Sea Festival Glen Leslie filled in for Bob who was unable to make it. Thanks guys, you did well! Now others have said "How do we go about re-organizing a Carnegie Bridge Club?" Here's how:

If you're interested, please come to a meeting Sunday, August 26th in the Theatre at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the idea. Or, if you can't make the meeting, let Paul Harris (who can often be found volunteering on the 2nd floor), or Donald Viaud (staff, 3rd floor) know you're interested.

We hope to get the club going again by September. So practice your bidding eh!

METRIC CONVERSION CHART

When You Know	Multiply By	To Find
inches	2.54	centimetres
feet	30	centimetres
yards	0.9	metres
miles	1.6	kilometres
acres	0.4	hectares
ounces	28	grams
pounds	0.45	kilograms
short tons	0.9	tonnes
gallons (Imp.)	4.5	litres

$^{\circ}\text{C} = (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32) \times .555$

$^{\circ}\text{F} = (^{\circ}\text{C} \times 1.8) + 32$

bingo

at

CARNEGIE

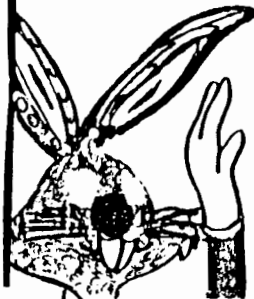
6:30

Wed.

Arts & Crafts for Kids

Mondays 7-9 pm.
Saturdays 2-4 pm.

Free



NO WAY ON EARTH

Agri-trade collections
minerology courier erosion
the manufacturing processes
disposal of waste

Lay down your arms
- don't lift a finger

Go limp
and resist
the need for greed mismanagement
and wastes

Recycle more
use it all
re-use or refuse
r e f u s e

Taum NYC'R

WELCOME TO THE HUMAN RACE



Life's Like That

Deaf Ears

I am a twenty-eight year old male, single (divorced actually) welfare recipient. I don't usually stand out in a crowd, and most people would never suspect I suffer from what has been diagnosed as depression. I don't, however, wish to tell you the reader about depression (I'm not qualified).

I do wish to inform you of the problems I have encountered in obtaining suitable therapy for my condition.

I was first diagnosed as depressed ten months ago in another province. I admitted myself to hospital because of a failed suicide attempt and deciding to get help. I was released ten days later and given an appointment to see a psychiatrist. I saw him for five minutes every two weeks. I moved to try and "start over".

If anything has been consistent in the last ten years, it's been the fact that: I've moved to "start over."

In Vancouver I was referred to St. Paul's Outpatient Dept. by Emergency. There I was assessed and referred to the "intense group therapy" program. The director (intake worker) said I needed "one on one" psychotherapy and referred me to the Strathcona Community Mental Health Unit on Heatly St. for a) "one on one" therapy, and b) because that was in my area.

This morning I went to the Strathcona center. I went in and explained that I was referred there. I was told to wait and then was directed to see their intake worker.

The worker asked the usual name and health care card questions. She then asked why I came there. I told her it was for depression. The worker



then wanted details; details which I felt was doctor-client privileged. The worker then informed that I could trust her. I told the worker that it was not a matter of trust, that it was my right to limit information of my health concerns to the licenced physician. The worker then informed me that their centre is a "team" and that I would not be allowed to see

their psychiatrist unless she, the worker, deemed it necessary. While the worker may be qualified to determine who I should see, there is, as far as I know, no law (and she agreed) that would protect me if she, the worker, divulged any information to a third party.

In closing, let me say that even though Canadians did enjoy the right to privacy, it is a right that comes only with risk to one's mental health. i.e. 'I'm the nurse, secretary, intake worker, etc. and I won't let you see the psychiatrist unless you give up your right to privacy.

16 YEARS

DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY

685-4488
Free doctors on site
223 Main
(confidential)

Wed. evening: 5 to 8:30
Dr. AL VENNEMA
Thur. evening: 5 to 8:30
Dr. COLIN HERRICKS
STD nurses are on site
through the weekdays.

Drop in
or call
for an
appoint-
ment.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.

* Articles represent the views of individual
contributors and not of the Association.

FREE - donations accepted.

City info staff can't accept
donations for this newsletter, so
if you can help, find Paul Taylor
and he'll give you a receipt.

Thanks everybody.

DONATIONS SINCE INCEPTION:

Bruce T. -\$200	Yanum Spath -\$200
Nancy W. -\$300	Willis S. -\$110
George B. -\$15	Rich P. -\$41
Robert S. -\$80	Jancis A. -\$45
Luis P. -\$20	Tom - \$4.02
Marg S. -\$20	L.B.T. -\$100
Ted B. -\$5	Sheila B. -\$2
	Lillian H. -\$20
	James M. -\$50
	I. MacLeod -\$200
	Kelly -\$6
	J. East -\$1
	Nancy J. -\$70
	Sue H. -\$20
	Steve R. -\$10
	Ian -\$5
	B. & B. -\$8
	Neil M. -\$2
	CEEDS -\$10
	Peter E. -\$4.57
	Etienne S. -\$40
	Linda F. -\$50
	Keith C. -\$20
	Mendel R. -\$15
	Wilfrid B. -\$12
	K'lem G. -\$5
	Anonymous -\$48.73
	The Fire Bug -\$250
	Terry the Terrible -\$100
	Archie M. -\$100
	Linda K. -\$100
	Maureen R. -\$5
	Sandy C. -\$40

**NEXT ISSUE'S
DEADLINE:**
12 August 1990
(Sunday)

NEED HELP?

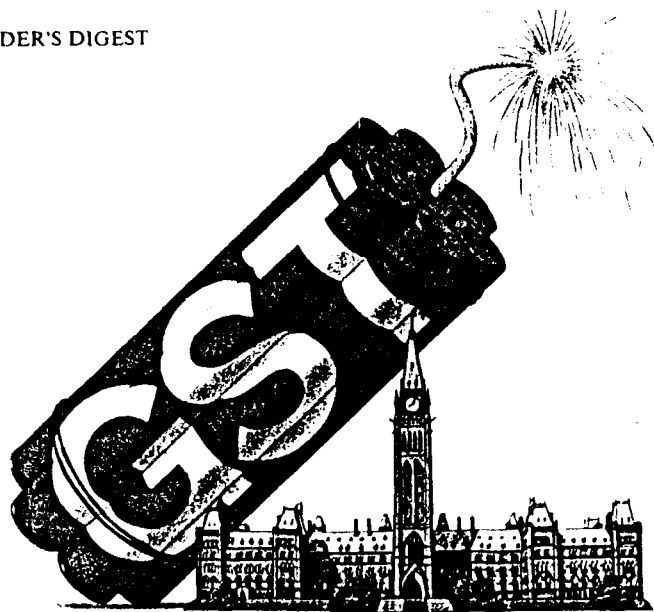
DERA can help you with:

- * any welfare problems
- * UIC problems
- * getting legal assistance
- * unsafe living conditions
in hotels or apartments
- * disputes with landlords
- * income tax



DERA is located at 9 East Hastings
or phone 682-0931.

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 16 YEARS



A TAX TIME BOMB

The new levy may not only boost taxes next year — it could impose an even greater load on us in the future

BY DON MCGILLIVRAY

ILLUSTRATION: JULIUS OSS

IN THE summer of 1989, long before a nickel of the new goods and services tax (GST) was due to be collected, the proposal had the nation in an uproar. On the Prairies, voters packed Axe-the-tax rallies. Opposition MPs and senators tried hard to stall it in Parliament. Newspapers collected thousands of anti-GST signatures. Tax resisters vowed they wouldn't pay. And Brian Mulroney's Conservatives were driven lower in popularity surveys than any other ruling party in a half-century of poll taking.

Why the bitter opposition to a kind of taxation already in effect in most industrial countries? Why the fierce reaction against a levy that the government says is fairer and will benefit us by replacing the existing federal tax on manufactured goods with a more visible across-the-board tax on goods and services?

Yes, services too; and that's part of the trouble. We aren't used to paying sales tax on plumbing bills, taxi fares, haircuts and lawyers' fees. Also, the new tax's application to manufactured items is difficult to understand. It is a value-added tax, which means it is levied on the value added at each stage of manufacture or distribution, and the ultimate consumer — you and I — will bear the cost.

Then there is a sense of betrayal. Finance Minister Michael Wilson promised the tax would be simple. And he said he would try to integrate it with existing provincial taxes so Canadians would know instantly the total tax they would pay on a toaster or a pair of shoes.

Upward Revision. But the GST isn't simple, and it isn't integrated. The bill, now awaiting Senate approval, is a book of 343 pages stuffed

with complex guidelines. There is a dividing line, for example, between what the legislation considers groceries, which are exempt, and what it regards as prepared foods, which will be taxed. This was done to maintain competitive equity between grocery stores and take-out establishments. A pack of seven cookies will be tax-free because items sold in quantities of more than six are considered a basic grocery item that is taken home to be prepared and eaten; a pack of five of exactly the same kind will be taxable since they are considered to be a prepared food for immediate consumption.

Because federal-provincial talks aimed at integration of sales taxes were unsuccessful, Canadians in every province except Alberta, which has no sales tax, will pay two taxes on most purchases.

The finance minister cut the January 1, 1991, starting rate from nine to seven percent to help sell the tax. But such analysts as the Toronto accounting and management consulting firm of Ernst & Young expect the GST to be treated as "a ready revenue source," and say the "rate will be subject to regular upward revision during the '90s as the government tries to cope with its stubborn deficit difficulties and increasing spending pressures."

Before they came to power, the Tories, with Wilson as Opposition budget critic, denounced the Liberals for overtaxing Canadians. Now they find themselves targets of similar accusations. As resistance to the GST built up over the past year, Prime Minister Mulroney admitted in a CBC radio interview that the new tax was a "pretty good way" to become unpopular. How, then, did the government get involved in trying to impose a tough new tax on just about everything citizens buy?

The story goes back to 1984 when the Tories took over an economy struggling to recover from the worst

recession since the 1930s. They wanted to do two things: get the deficit under control, and reform the tax system by making it fairer and simpler.

Wilson, as the new finance minister, inherited a budget deficit of almost \$40 billion a year. He vowed to cut it by reducing spending rather than increasing taxes. Since then he has put more than 33 tax increases into effect, and the government's total spending has grown to \$143 billion in 1989 from \$109 billion in 1984. The deficit is still uncomfortably near \$30 billion.

As for the drive to reform the tax system, it was inspired by cuts in the United States. The Finance Minister was afraid too many Canadians would be lured south by lower income-tax rates. So he announced, in 1986, a bid to "restore a healthier balance among the personal, corporate and sales taxes" that would "reverse the trend which has resulted in greater reliance on personal income tax." The tax load would be shifted to shoulders better able to bear it, but the total burden was not to be increased.

Wilson hoped a value-added tax would be welcomed in Canada as it had been in New Zealand. But the New Zealand tax, legislated in 1985, was tied to income-tax reductions. People could see one tax going down when the other was imposed.

In Canada, income-tax rates were cut before the 1988 election, but raised again afterwards. Introduction of the "new national sales tax" legislation was postponed until after the vote.

Protective Gimmick. The main benefit Wilson claims for the GST is that it replaces the present federal sales tax, a tax he has called "a silent killer of jobs," and a tax that business has complained about for years. This tax is levied at the manufacturers' level, which means that its burden on various kinds of goods is

chancy, depending on whether marketing and distribution costs make up a big or small part of the final price. Yet Wilson's complaints about the existing tax ring hollow. He inherited a nine-percent rate from the Liberals and has raised it four times. It now stands at 13.5 percent.

One reason some 48 industrial countries have adopted a value-added tax is that it is one of the few ways allowed by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world trade watchdog, to design a national tax system against imports and in favour of exports. In other words, it is protectionism.

The GST will work like a tariff because it is charged on imports, but not on exports. Goods produced in other countries will be more expensive for Canadians to buy, while our exports will be cheaper to foreign consumers. But as more countries adopt a GST-type tax, the less the protective gimmick will work for us. We tax the other country's exports and they tax ours. Nobody is any further ahead.

Nevertheless, the trade effect, the government claims, is one of the ways the GST will benefit the economy. Another is the massive transfer of the tax burden from business to the consumer. It has been estimated that business absorbs about half the present federal sales tax instead of being able to pass it on to the consumer. The new tax is designed to be passed right down the line to the final point of sale.

Here's how the value-added aspect works: The GST is seven percent on the final price paid by the consumer. But it is collected in bits and pieces at each stage of production and distribution, according to how much value each person producing and distributing an item adds to that item.

Imagine a forester who cuts down a tree. The tree goes to the sawmill to be made into lumber. The lumber

goes to a manufacturer to be made into a chair. The chair goes to a wholesaler who ships it to a retailer who sells it to a consumer. The GST is charged on the sale price at each step of this process. Each person involved pays the government seven percent of the value he adds — and gets the money back through a tax credit. The rate of tax is seven percent at each stage, but the amount of tax gets bigger and bigger as the value of the item increases on its way to the retail sale. The tax credit enables the item to be taxed at seven percent at the various stages of production and distribution without the price increasing due to taxation, thus avoiding a cascading effect. The last person in the process, the consumer, pays seven percent tax on the retail price, but is not entitled to a credit.

The system turns the seller at each stage into a tax collector. And it provides a compelling motive all the way up the line for charging the tax. If the retailer, for example, fails to charge the ultimate customer the tax, he'll be out the GST he had to pay to the wholesaler. From the government's standpoint this is beautiful: The tax polices itself. But is it a fair tax?

Wilson's GST reverses his earlier attempts to make the tax system more equitable by gearing levies to ability to pay. The richest Canadians will feel the new tax least. The poor will pay at the cash register, then get at least some of their money back through an awkward system of tax-credit cheques.

The biggest losers will be middle-class Canadians with incomes in the \$30,000 to \$70,000 range — more than 50 percent of all families. These Canadians are too "rich" to qualify for the tax-credit cheques intended to ease the GST for the poor. But, unlike the truly rich, they have to spend most of their incomes. And that spending puts them right in the sights of Wilson's new consumer

tax.

Turning Points. The government has used the most soothing numbers it can muster to make the case for the GST. It expects manufacturers to cut prices to reflect the removal of the present federal sales tax. It expects the GST will stimulate manufacturing and exports, and give Canada a greater output to divide among its citizens. But Canadians have been made GST-sensitive by the long struggle over the tax. To make the government's numbers come out right, sellers and buyers will have to stand still and take the tax blow. But they're much more likely to try to defend themselves and their standards of living by building a GST-cushion into future contracts for prices and wages.

The wave of anger that has swept

1990

GST: A TAX TIME BOMB

across the country is partly attributable to an instinctive feeling that the cost will be much higher than the government has admitted. There is also resentment over the government's abandoning its avowed pursuit of a lighter and fairer tax load. Just as the GST is a turning point towards consumption taxes, the public outrage may be a turning point of its own — a widespread reaction against increasingly heavy taxation.

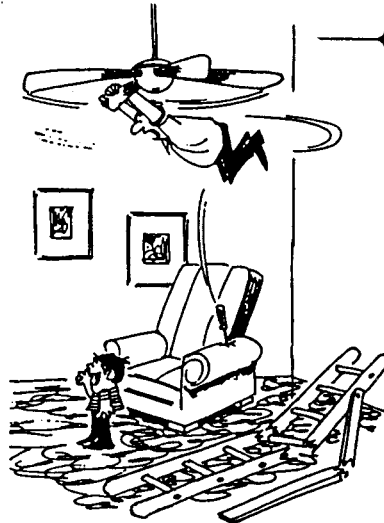
The government's pitch for the tax now is focused on the claim that Ottawa can cut the federal deficit

only by raising taxes. The claim is suspect. Tax increases have been inflationary, thus giving the Bank of Canada a reason to raise interest rates to fight inflation. But every time the bank raises interest rates, it also raises the carrying cost of the national debt, giving the government a new reason to raise taxes.

By facing up to the hard decisions about spending, the government could have cut into this vicious circle in the seven-year growth period that came before the present economic slowdown. It's tougher now, but it still has to be done.



"Darling, your shed has arrived."



"Daddy's got the fan fixed, Mommy!"



"He'll be here in a minute — he's just putting up some shelves in the kitchen."

The talking stick

An ancient and honourable way, practiced by Aboriginal Peoples, for speaking from the heart. Persons sit in a circle with a stick in the middle. Whoever holds the stick talks from the deepest truth they can feel in their heart. No one else speaks until the stick is passed on to them. Beginning in the next issue of the Carnegie Newsletter, The Talking Stick will be the forum for debate, philosophy, sorrow and hope. Submissions are to be no longer than 1 page in length.



THE GREAT DIVIDE
ABORIGINAL VERSUS EUROPEAN?

I like to thank both Tora and Mike for their exciting contributions igniting the Newsletter. Mike's evocation of a corrupted capitalist order "made by myopic madmen" is lucid and convincing.

However, the "Great Divide" again appears: the Aboriginal vs. European Spirit (it is all black or white/good or bad). My argument: one can learn from both Aboriginal cultures and the ancient Greeks.

Both Tora and Mike blame "European superiority" and "Socratic reason" for today's vulgar materialism. Germans blamed a small Fascist power elite for Nazi atrocities. However, all Germans (in fact all humanity) must be held responsible, both collectively and individually. Humanity let it happen. Similarly humanity also allowed "a few myopic madmen" to construct this new Babylon.

Any debate about a proper perspective, which will provide an "objective overview" is vacuous. It all depends on one's mediated cultural experience. This writer became disgusted at an early age with humanity when seeing a documentary film on Auschwitz. This shocking exposure gave me an objective understanding of what "civilized" human beings are capable of.

True, 'European superiority' cannot mask a depraved past. However, to deem Socratic reason (Mike) or 'European superiority' responsible is unfair and ignores our responsibility. Similarly, Marx was blamed for Stalin, Nietzsche for Hitler. If Reason has historically been perverted in the name of progress/profit, let us not blame the philosophers. They did not advocate material greed or spiritual atrophy.

Tora claims that, in 'ideal' aboriginal societies, individuals "uncompromisingly shared their deepest wishes and highest ideals." I thank him for sharing the purpose and philosophy of the talking stick and other personal experiences. He quickly insinuates that I may find such a practice childish and primitive. On the contrary.. there is a desperate need and place for such unmasked communication in our spiritually impoverished age. In fact, community groups at Pacific Youth (my workplace) re-

flect this approach.

I found Tora's elaborations so intriguing that I did some research on Shamanism in order to understand alienation as used by Tora. I learned that Shamans of superior intellect were specifically identified by their superior ability to enter into autohypnotic trances. I also learned about warlords and hierarchical tribal divisions ..which weakens Tora's idealistic projection. I wonder how many ordinary individuals can enter into such direct communion with the supernatural? How do such intense mystical departures serve as a catalyst for political action?

Even if such egalitarian culture once existed, one cannot go back. The leftist goal today is to change the existing relations of domination and subordination. To do this, Tora inculcates an altered state of consciousness to infiltrate the collective, materialistic consciousness. Marx predicted a collective, proletarian(class) consciousness would lead to communism, i.e. the collapse of an exploitative, capitalist order. However, such collectivization of a revolutionary, class consciousness did not occur. Instead, as Mike notes, "things out there have become even uglier." Mike invokes a darkquote about the "creative hero, who carries the cross of the redeemer...in the silences of his personal despair." I cannot help it, but this reminds me of Kafka, the solitary melancholic, who from his gloomy room foresaw the nightmares of Nazism. Maybe I am biased, but I cannot see any practical liberation coming from this tragic hero. The 'outcast', when returning from his exile, or creative hero, is not necessarily the exclusive vehicle for social change. It is often the ordinary, non mythical individual who has risen to ethical/moral challenges and demands.

Ultimately, one must choose one's own responsible path, purpose and meaning; in the end life's meaning is never anything else but the one we give it. One is alone in this task and visions are valuable only if tested by living them.

By LAILA BERGANS

'I would like to have the purpose of being free'

"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, in all the places you can, for as long as ever you can." - ideation of spirituality. The power in this can conquer fear; it can make action and words bring positive, progressive social change. When you decide to be honest with yourself, your conscience learns to discriminate. Actions & words agree..are clear, strong and true. Language, spoken or not, communicates if your thinking is clear, but used badly ideas degenerate into so much crud.*

(*crud is a synonym for the word used to describe the product of a bull's bowel movement) = static arguments; they make you want to scream. Witness Laila's statement that all humanity is to blame for the Nazi atrocities. She says, "We let it happen!" Classroom akademiks, non-consciously, allow sacred logic & reasoning to say Native Peoples 'let' the non-natives take their lands, kill them, rape forests, pollute the environment, distribute blankets saturated with snallpox... The people of Canada let the "Free" Trade scam come into effect - it's obviously our fault that jobs are being lost, that poverty is growing by leaps and bounds, that people are sleeping in the streets, that violence and crime and drugs are everywhere. It's all our fault..it's always the victim's fault for not being on the other side. Anyone on welfare is obviously there because they've chosen to be... To keep anger under control is sometimes harder, especially with someone who has been in the Downtown Eastside for awhile, working with people here and interacting with us socially.. Maybe you think all the fights that

people have with welfare, all the agony of trying to find shelter (dare I say it - a home?) if you are single with a child, all the writing and meetings and events and demonstrations that are happening EVERY DAY in Carnegie...is all this just made up, just fiction?!

You can bury yourself in the Ancient Greeks, in references to philosophers and books and you can stay blind to what's happening all around you. You can refer to Shamans as "those who are adept at entering auto-hypnotic trances" (such a cute scientific throwaway) and continue to believe that everything, all social issues like racism, sexism, poverty, homelessness are subject to miraculous resolution through the scientific method of debate.

Tora advocates alienation as the means to getting an objective overview and I agree. But here's the crux: all spiritual progress and social change is consequent upon a personal commitment. The aboriginal worldview makes the spiritual and social aspects of being inalienable. You cannot disregard Infinity, you can only assume that ignoring universal law somehow excepts you from its consequences. It's this that has given us the materialism, the injustice and the attempted murder of Spirituality that is choking humanity.

When was the last time you heard the word "scandal"? Struggle is the essence of life. You cannot claim to be alive and part of life by closing yourself off from living.

By PAULR TAYLOR